

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3 and 5 are pending. Claims 4 and 6-26 are canceled. Claims 1 and 5 are amended. Support for the claim amendments may be found, for example, in the specification at page 7, lines 19-27, and page 9, lines 1-8. No new matter has been added.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Schlipfenbacher *et al.* (US Patent 5,110,550).

Claim 1 as amended relates to an assay device with sample signal generation means comprising a colored portion in the form of a line which is printed or otherwise formed or deposited on a nitrocellulose strip on the side which is not presented to a user, using an ink which does not penetrate through the nitrocellulose strip; such that the colored portion is overlaid by nitrocellulose which, when dry, is substantially opaque and which initially obscures at least part of the colored portion but which, when wet, becomes sufficiently translucent or transparent to allow the at least initially obscured part of the colored portion to become visible to a user.

According to the Office Action, Schlipfenbacher describes a test carrier for the analytical determination of a component of a liquid sample that comprises a transport means to pass fluid to a detection region operable to provide a test signal indicative of the presence and/or amount of an analyte in the liquid sample, and that the detection region shows a positive signal, which is alleged to be equivalent to an interactive signal. Schlipfenbacher does not disclose or suggest a sample signal generation means comprising a colored portion in the form of a line on the nitrocellulose strip on the side which is not presented to a user, as recited in claim 1. Schlipfenbacher also does not disclose or suggest a colored portion overlaid by nitrocellulose which, when dry, is substantially opaque and which initially obscures at least part of the colored portion but which, when wet, becomes sufficiently translucent or transparent to allow the at least initially obscured part of the colored portion to become visible to a user. Thus, Schlipfenbacher does not disclose or suggest every limitation of amended independent claim 1 and the claims dependent thereto.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conversation with Applicant's Agent would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: January 9, 2009